

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 96

By Dean

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Corporal Robert Franklin
“Bob” Burkhart of East Ridge.

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee have been fortunate through the years to have been served by brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to carry out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Robert Franklin “Bob” Burkhart, a traffic investigator with the East Ridge Police Department, was one such outstanding public servant, and the members of this General Assembly were saddened to learn of his death on January 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Burkhart served gallantly with the East Ridge Police Department, earning the respect and admiration of his fellow officers and the public for his unsurpassed dedication and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, the life of a police officer is never one without peril; Cpl. Burkhart risked his life several times in the line of duty, including being involved in a number of serious motorcycle accidents. He also suffered a heart attack in 2005, while on duty at East Ridge’s Christmas parade; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Burkhart performed his appointed duties in an admirable manner that distinguished him as a true credit to both his community and his profession; Hamilton County is undoubtedly a better and safer place because of his service; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Bob Burkhart was a member of the Masonic Lodge #114 F&AM of Harrison; and

WHEREAS, Bob Burkhart was a devout Baptist and faithfully attended worship services;
and

WHEREAS, a consummate defender of our nation's liberties, Mr. Burkhart was a veteran of the United States Army having served in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burkhart was deeply devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be greatly missed by his beloved wife Bea Burkhart, whom he had recently wed; daughter, Kimberly Mitchell; son, Robert F. Burkhart, Jr.; step-daughter Leah Willis; six grandchildren; and his brother, David Burkhart and wife Linda; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burkhart was preceded in death by his parents, W.F. and Evelyn Burkhart; and

WHEREAS, he leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity and valor in his public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should join all Tennesseans in remembering the bountiful life of this courageous officer, public servant, and exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Corporal Robert Franklin "Bob" Burkhart, recalling his impeccable character, unquestionable valor, and stalwart commitment to living an exemplary life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Cpl. Burkhart.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.